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March 10 -

A
Dissertation
on
Cholera Infantum
by

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admitted March 23d. 1821

Philadelphia.

W. D. Johnston

of
New Brunswick

Book 1. Book

March 23d. 1821

Richard H. Smith

In the vast catalogue of diseases which are incident to the human frame, there are none, which are better calculated to excite our sympathy, or demand more careful medical treatment, than those peculiar to the period of infantile life. Among the most important of these is

Cholera Infantum;

a disorder of which very little has been said by the medical writers, either of Europe or of our own country. It is really surprising, that the physicians of the United States should be so silent with regard to a disease, which has annually caused such devastations in our cities.

In Philadelphia it has for a number of years past been productive of considerable mortality.

The following is a statement of the number of deaths which have occurred within the last two years, as furnished me by my friend D. Burden: in 1819 under the year '14' - From one to two years '45. - From two to five, 20 = 245. In 1820, under

It is not possible to find a more
 perfect example of the same
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 the kind in the world.

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 the kind in the world.

One year 1853. - From One to Five years 89.
 From Two to Five 15 = 94. Making in Two Years
 the immense number of 192 from this disease
 alone, which is sufficient to establish its
 great importance, and excites us to use every
 exertion to lessen its fatality.

1847
The first of the year 1847
was a very dry one in the
country. The crops of wheat
and corn were very small
and the cattle and sheep
were very thin.

Cholera Infantum.

Cholera Infantum is a disease which in the United States is very prevalent, and attended with considerable mortality during the hot summer and autumnal months. It is for the most part confined to large towns, and in this city is well known by the common name of the Summer complaint.

In Charleston, South Carolina, it is named the April and May disorder: from its appearing in those months. In Philadelphia it usually begins to show itself sometime in June, and continues its ravages untill the cool weather of October arrests its career - it may however occur earlier, or be protracted to a much later period.

Children are most liable to be attacked by this disease from the 5th month untill the close of the second year. It commences with symptoms of pyrexia, loss of appetite, nausea, and sometimes vomiting, without purging, though more commonly the purging appears first, most generally however it comes on with violent purging and

* Vide Dr. Keck's 2^d Vol. Med. Enquiries.

remiting together.

The matter evacuated is at first considerably mixed with bile, and of a green or yellow colour.

The stools however soon lose their bilious character, and become watery, or mucous. Occasionally the mucus is mixed with a whitish pulpy substance, with here and there a few streaks of green or yellow matter. Sometimes they are white; at other times considerably tinged with blood. The natural faeces seldom appear; when they do it is in the form of scybala. Generally the stools are large and exceedingly offensive, but in some instances are free from smell, and consist principally of the aliment as taken in, which has passed away very little changed. Worms are frequently discharged throughout the disease.

The accompanying fever is of a remittent character, the exacerbations occurring more particularly

1840

The first of the month of January 1840 was a day of great interest to the people of this city. The morning was spent in the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The services were conducted with great solemnity and devotion. The afternoon was spent in the celebration of the anniversary of the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The services were conducted with great solemnity and devotion. The evening was spent in the celebration of the anniversary of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The services were conducted with great solemnity and devotion.

The second of the month of January 1840 was a day of great interest to the people of this city. The morning was spent in the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The services were conducted with great solemnity and devotion. The afternoon was spent in the celebration of the anniversary of the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The services were conducted with great solemnity and devotion. The evening was spent in the celebration of the anniversary of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The services were conducted with great solemnity and devotion.

in the evening, and rises in the morning.

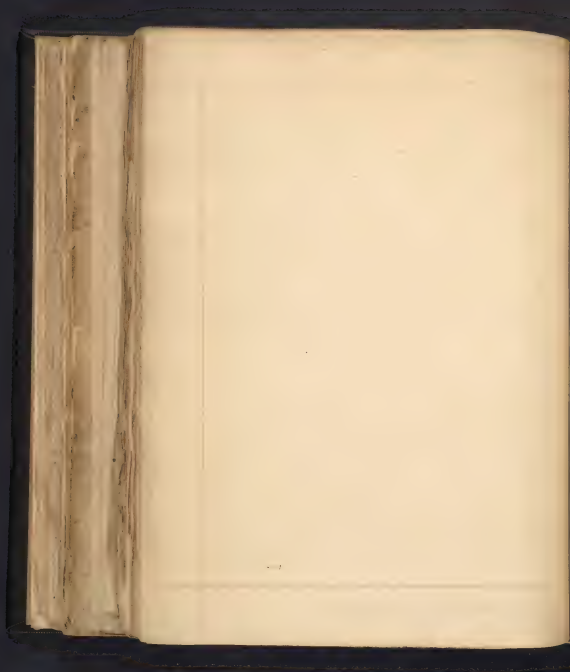
The pulse is weak, quick, and irritated, though in the commencement of the disorder it is sometimes full. The temperature of the surface is unusual.

The head and face are hot, while the extremities are cold. The skin is dry, and has a thrivethickish, particularly on the inside of the thighs which is remarkably striae and washed.

The tongue is white; just thro' all the throat the throat; a secretion of the salivary, can also of the food and drink, than before, place.

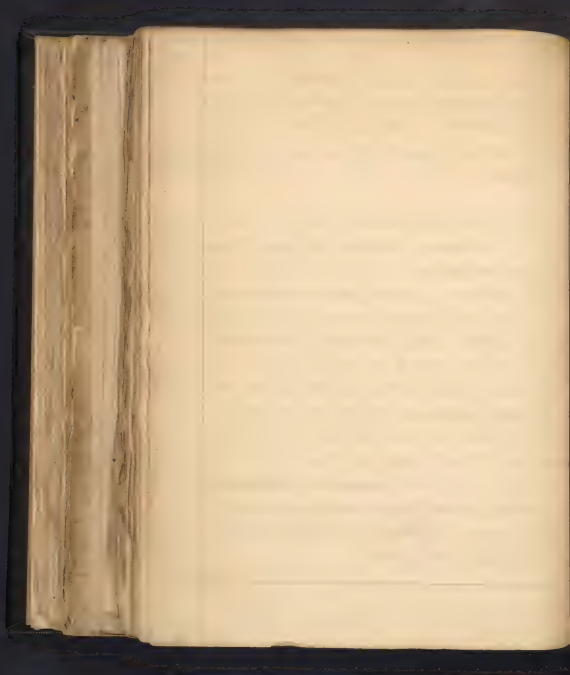
The ability in many instances appears to suffer greatly; as for instance in some instances the retention, in short, in many, and this almost in all. The skin is the most affected, the mouth of the tongue is the most affected, and the tongue is the most affected. Sometimes the tongue is the most affected. But this has been seen to exist in the most violent action in the system to remove them.*

* Note. Dr. Mead's 2nd ed. Med. Practicæ.



The purging continues, without the vomiting
the stools frequently amounting to twenty or even
thirty in a day. They are often accompanied with
severe torminae and tenesmus.

The duration of the disease is various, depending
much on the manner of its attack, the season,
the state, vicissitudes of weather, &c. A hot one
may terminate with acrimonia increase the violence
of the disease, while a cool day will often lessen its
force and dispose it to a favourable termination.
Sometimes it is so violent and rapid in its progress,
that it carries off the child in one day; while at
other times it continues with occasional changes
for several weeks, and even months, when great
emaciation, the dull, sunk eye, contracted junction,
fixed spots, a sore mouth, sanguine, convulsions,
and a struggle mortis suppurative occur, because
generally denote that Death is about to terminate
the sufferings of the infant.



Post Mortem Examinations show marked inflammation throughout a considerable portion of the alimentary canal. Upon the mucous coat of the Stomach & small intestines, especially of the duodenum, near the pylorus, dark blood spots are to be met with.

The Liver is usually much enlarged, but is very little changed in structure. On protracted fatal effusions are sometimes discovered in the brain.

Mucus is found in considerable quantity in the bowels, and occasionally small trunks of indurated fecal matter. The Spleen and Pancreas, though rarely, have been seen in a diseased state.

*The Proliferation to Cholera Infantum, consists in the debility induced by the operation of the hot and impure air of Lower Africa.**

The disease is excited into action by certain ingesta, offensive either from quality or quantity.

* Vide. Dr. Chapin's Lectures.



Improper Clothing;

1. Intemperance. This has been objected to as a cause of this disease, but that it is such, is, I think, unquestionable. For it has been observed, that some children "suffer during Infancy, some it is true the Second Summer" of the most profuse period of intemperance is considered as a most important period of infantile life.

2. Ferus. These also have been objected to as a cause of Cholera Infantum, but that this is, by their presence in the alimentary canal, excited and aggravated (this disease), is, I believe, a fact pretty well established. There is indeed (says Doctor Chapman) scarcely a complaint which these animals will not excite or imitate.*

By some physicians the Liver is considered as the original seat of Cholera Infantum, but a more correct theory of the disease, which is supported by its causes, phenomena, &c, and one which I shall

* D.^o Vol. Therapeutics.

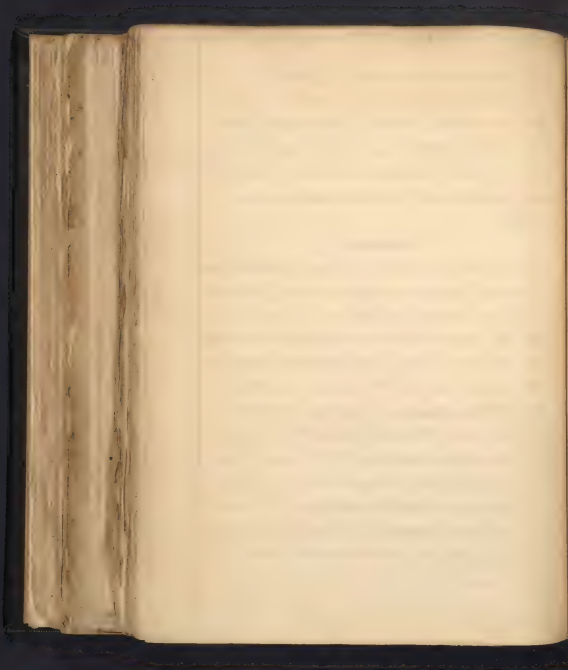


adept, is that it is primarily a gastric affection, the Hepatic system being only sympathetically affected. The first effect is an increased secretion of bile, the Liver however soon becomes inactive and its functions wholly or in a great measure suspended.

Treatment.

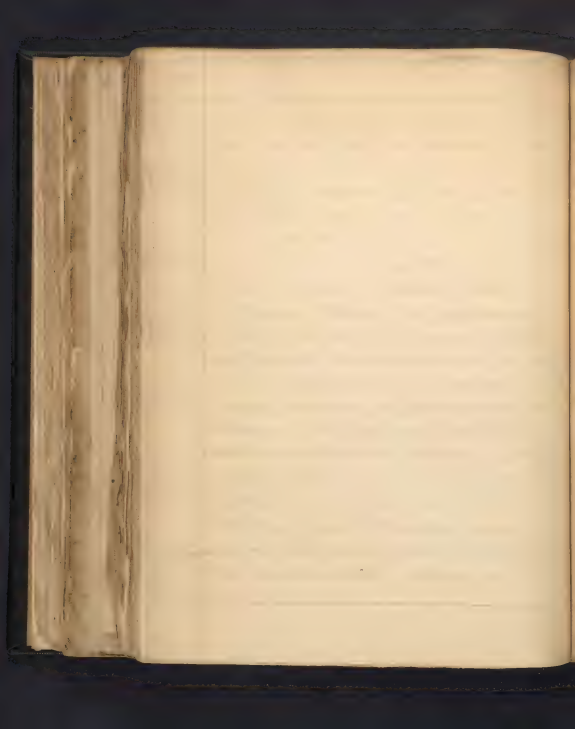
Generally the first step in the cure of Catarrh of the Gall bladder is to evacuate the alimentary canal by means of purgatives; but in severe cases, where the stomach is extremely irritable these medicines would be almost immediately rejected. Then we should first endeavour to tranquillise the stomach, and for this purpose, Sweet Water, or Seltzer Water, Clouden's Tincture, Camellier's, the absorbent, or the Warm Bath, should be employed.

When along with the vomiting there is much pain, and the gastric symptoms are considerable, or when there will be danger from the irritation of a violent cathartic, in the early stage of the disease; it will not always seem to be of any service, but in some cases,



greatest uncertainty, and, I do not know but in
 some "disposition", which I have not time
 to explain here, from the time to time.
 I shall then when I see it is "indicated"
 in practice, be at it, and it is, I think, and
 believe it is, in the nature, and the manner, and
 gives the general aspect.

When the indication of the stimulus is obvious,
 and it is understood, as the necessity of preparation,
 they should be used as a variety of these
 medicines have been used, as the "Shubert, Mann,
 Macmura, Carter Oil, &c." The latter in the form of
 the "dequious mixture", in which cases and
 with. Calomel however, either alone or combined
 with Opium, is infinitely better adapted to the treatment
 of "Cancer" than any of the other four others;
 and even the combination of Calomel and Opium
 given in small doses with "purgative salts", and
 Carter Oil, and other medicines, given with the same
 view, and even rejected. For its introduction as a



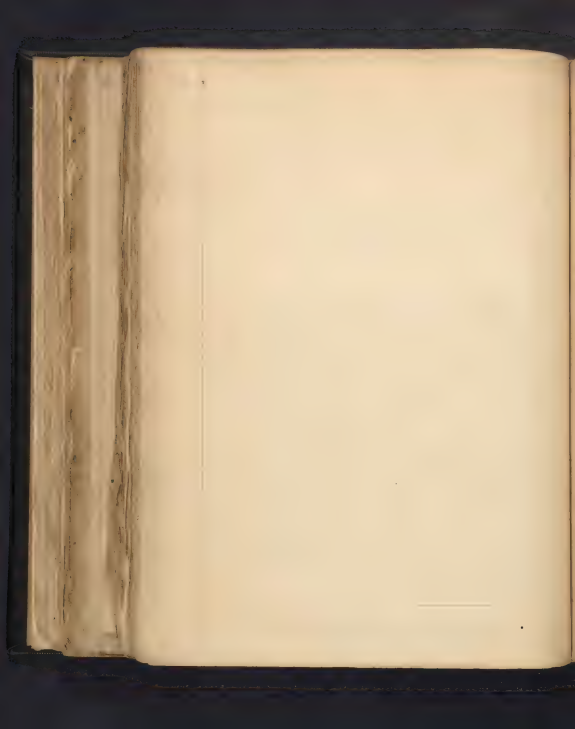
remedy in the treatment of this disease, we are indebted to the late Dr. Wilson of New York, who originally employed it in a case of "Stomach with dysenteric symptoms." The dose of this medicine should be continued to be given till the patient recovers the "irritability" of the bowels.

When the mucous contents of the intestine cannot be completely discharged, the purgatives should be discontinued. The indication now is to allow the intestinal contents to move into the rectum & evacuate the bowels. The Cathartic given in this case with its usual contents will assist the same process. Again our experience is highly useful.

At all times the indication, however, is a secretion of bile and improve the general condition of the patient.

In this case it is important to give the cathartic as a recommendation to the patient. When the recommendation is given it is not given in the patient's mind. It should be noted.

Side. Dr. Wilson's paper, 1st Vol. Med. Record N.Y.



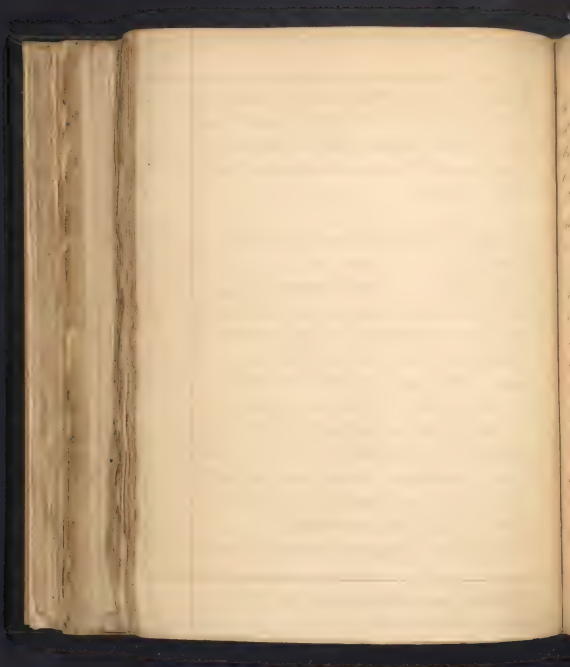
The Warm Bath in this disease is exceedingly useful. It cleanses and softens the skin, and by exciting an increased action of the extreme organs, equalizes the temperature of the surface. When there is great debility Camomile pepper, or mustard, or brandy or some other stimulations article should be added.

Mustars by taking off the determination from the stomach and bowels are all used with the best effects; they may be applied either to the abdomen or extremities as the case may require.

Emetics the better with an infusion of bitter roots, or the agitation of veins placed in a staunch and warm oil or ointment to the abdomen will be found useful to in it is vomiting.

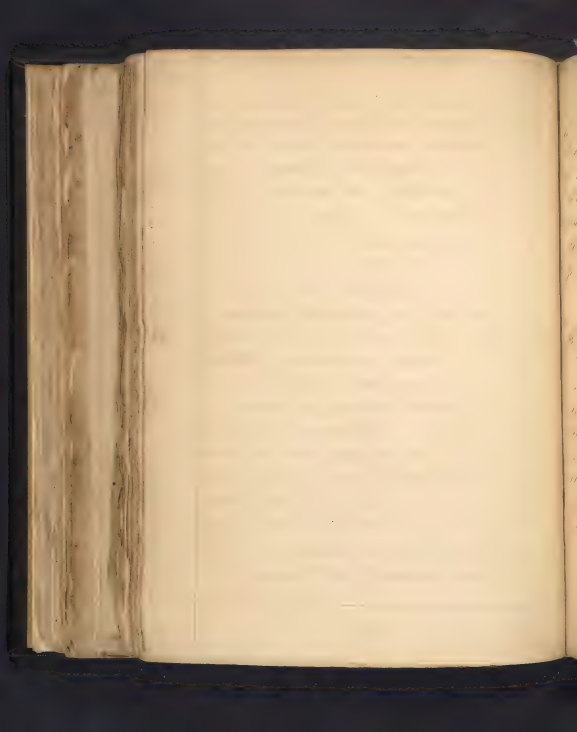
In cases of great prostration with considerable vomiting Dr. Wm. of this City has derived much advantage from the application of the volatile oil





the disease has assumed the form of Diarrhoea; attended with Tenesmus and severe gripings, in which case the use of Opium and Laudanum will be found very effectual. The catarrhus coli is often attended with hemorrhoids; the spirit of Wine, but the Purgative mixture will also be found useful remedies in this stage of the disease.

When the heat is removed, and in a great measure subsided, but a simple Diarrhoea is left, astringent medicines are indicated to restrain the profuse evacuation. Mennit it still proves serviceable in this case; it is usual to combine it with a small portion of Opium. The Colomba is a remedy of great merit, it may be given either in powder or infusion. The Squid is an important medicine in the treatment of this disease. The Colic, is much relied on by Dr. Physick, and is pretty generally prescribed by the physicians of this city. Nothing is more of the Quercus, but

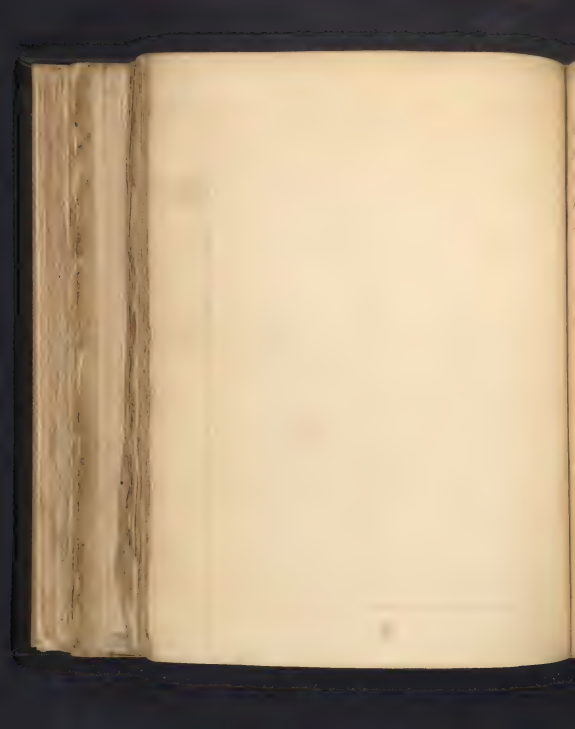


is highly recommended by Doct. Hufschmidt.

"I wish the best medicine I have the satisfaction
to witness its success in several cases and
believe it to be the best for the cure of the
dysentery etc. — it is more pleasant and is
the same thing as the salt of the tartar, a
patient.

Mr. Hufschmidt is well known to physicians
that the most perfect remedy is a mixture of
the salt of tartar with a mixture of
some other ingredients. He says that the most
perfect mixture is the tartar; but there is
a circumstance in the use of it as to prevent
its use in the country, the salt of tartar is
not in the state of the tartar. Much attention will
be given to the preparation of the re-
medy.

So that is the most perfect remedy, as it is



the milk of the mother; if weaned, the farinaceous substances, as the Tapioca, Sage, Powdered Rice, Arrow Root, &c with a proper proportion of sweet Milk. In the Chronic stage a little Salt meat, or Fish, may be allowed.

Before I conclude this essay I shall mention those means which are best adapted to prevent the occurrence of the disease.

- 1st The Child should not be weaned within the year.
- 2nd The Cold or Warm Bath should be used daily.
- 3^d Flannels should be worn next the skin, and Worsted Stockings upon the legs.
- 4th The Diet should be well regulated, and consist of milk and the farinaceous articles; ripe fruits in moderate quantity may be permitted.
- 5th The Gums if swollen or inflamed during teething, should be lanced.
- 6th The Child should be sent to the country before the approach of warm weather, or be carried once

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or twice a day out of town or over the river, so that
he be exposed to the pure air."

